

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-58. (Cancelled).

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67 ~~57~~, wherein said compound is comprised in a support solution in a concentration of 1 to 30 mM.

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67 ~~57~~, further comprising adding to said blood fraction ~~wherein said a~~ compound is selected from the group consisting of acetyl-L-carnitine, propionyl L-carnitine, butyryl L-carnitine, isobutyryl L-carnitine, valeryl L-carnitine, and isovaleryl L-carnitine.

62-66. (Cancelled).

67. (New) A method for suppressing bacterial growth in a blood fraction, comprising

- (a) providing a blood fraction containing platelet concentrate;
- (b) leuko-reducing the platelet concentrate in said blood fraction to form a prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate; and
- (c) adding to said blood fraction a compound selected from the group consisting of L-carnitine and salts of L-carnitine in an amount effective to suppress bacterial growth in said blood fraction;

wherein said method comprises suspending said prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate in a support solution which comprises said compound in a concentration of 0.25 to 50 mM,

the improvement comprising storing said prestorage leuko-reduced platelet concentrate for up to 8 days.